Guide to CAT Exam – 2024 Edition – Free

Conducted by one of the top IIMs every year by rotation, Common Admission Test is the largest MBA entrance exam for MBA admission in 21 IIMs and other top B-schools. It is the mandatory entrance exam for MBA admission 2025 in all the 21 IIMs, FMS Delhi, IIFT Delhi & Kolkata, SPJIMR Mumbai, MDI Gurgaon, IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Kharagpur, and hundreds of other top B-schools in India. More than three lakh candidates appear in CAT every year to explore admission opportunity in MBA programmes offered by IIMs and other top MBA colleges in India. This Guide to CAT Exam by MBAUniverse.com is based on interactions with CAT Experts, Toppers and Best Books on the subject.

CAT 2024 Highlights

It is not only the largest MBA entrance exam in India, it is the gateway to top 1000+ MBA colleges. Following are the key highlights like of CAT Exam:

CAT Exam Particulars	Key Details
CAT Exam 2024 Full Form	Common Admission Test 2024
Who Conducts CAT Exam?	One of 6 old IIMs conducts CAT every year
CAT 2024 Conducting Institute	IIM Calcutta
CAT 2024 Exam Date	Sunday, November 24, 2024
Total Questions in the Exam	66
No. of sections & Questions	Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension: 24 Qs Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning: 20 Qs Quantitative Ability: 22 Qs
Number of Answer Options for MCQs	4
Number of Answer Options for Non-MCQs	No Answer Option; Type In the Answer on Computer screen
Scoring Pattern in CAT exam	+3 Marks for Each Correct Answer -1 Mark for Each Wrong Answer (Only for MCQs) 0 Mark for Each Wrong Answer or Unattempted Question for Non-MCQs
Exam Slots	To be Conducted in 3 sessions – Morning, Afternoon & Evening on same day
Exam duration	2 hours for each slot
CAT Sectional Time Limit	40 Minutes for Each of the 3 sections
Facility to Choose Order of Sections	No, Must answer the sections in pre defined order from section 1 to 3
Testing Mode	Computer based exam at test centres but not an online exam
CAT 2024 Notification Release	July 28, 2024

Details to Check in Notification	CAT Exam details, Application fee, Registration dates, MBA courses by IIMs through CAT 2024
Top MBA Colleges Accepting CAT 2024 for MBA admission 2025	21 IIMs, FMS, IIFT, MDI, SPJIMR, IITs, IMI, IMT & 1000 other MBA colleges in India
How to Apply for CAT 2024?	Application process is online only
CAT 2024 Registration Fee	Rs.2500
CAT Official Website for Form Filling	https://iimcat.ac.in
Number of CAT 2024 Applicants	3.30 lakhs (CAT Registration Data 2023)
Number of Test Takers in Previous CAT Exam	2.88 lakhs (CAT 2023 test takers)

CAT Exam Pattern 2024

CAT exam since 2015 has remained on similar pattern. However, from 2020 due to Covid pandemic, the time duration and number of questions have been reduced without change in pattern and structure of the exam. The same pattern is likely to be followed for 2024 also, as under:

CAT 2023

Section	No. of Questions (MCQs/Non MCQs)	Topics	No. of Questions
VARC	24 (19 MCQs, 5 Non MCQs)	Verbal Ability 4 RC Passages	8 16
DILR	20 (15 MCQs, 5 Non MCQs)	Data Interpretation (3 Sets) Logical Reasoning (1 Set)	15 5
QA	22 (14 MCQs, 8 Non MCQs)	Arithmetic Algebra Geometry Modern Math	10 8 3 1

Read More: CAT Exam Pattern 2024

CAT 2024 Exam Syllabus

Although the exam Syllabus is not pre-defined by IIMs, it overall tests the candidate on Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension; Quantitative Aptitude; Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning. During the last 5 years, CAT exam syllabus has substantially changed. Major changes in the Syllabus 2024 are:

- The Syllabus is changed and contains different type of questions with a combination of MCQs & Non-MCQs.
- 25-30% Questions are no penalty questions now
- Most of the changes in syllabus have taken place in the Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension Section as the share of Reading Comprehension based questions has increased as compared to Verbal Ability questions
- A few changes in syllabus have been introduced in Quantitative Ability section with more focus on Arithmetic questions

CAT Syllabus Section-Wise

Sectional Division	Syllabus
Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension	Para Summary; Jumbled paragraphs; Out of Context Sentence; Error Correction in Sentences; Sequence of sentences; Fill in the blanks; Completion of Last Sentence of Paragraph; Analogies; Critical Reasoning; Sentence Completion RC Passages on Literature, Current Affairs, Social, Economic, Business issues followed by questions based on Inferences, Statements, Arguments, Main idea in the RC Passage; Author's assumption; Synonyms-antonyms; Meaning of the phrase; Vocabulary usage
Data Interpretation& Logical Reasoning (DILR)	Bar charts - Simple, Stacked, Composite Bar charts; Pie charts; Caselets; Data Analysis; Data comparison from Table; Graphs; Line Graphs; Data Sufficiency. Comparison of Data of various years, ages, classes, Groups; Decoding and finding out the data of missing period, taking clues, interpreting the missing links; Analysis of data and coming to conclusion, making future projections, Direction sense, Team formation, Seating Arrangement, Blood Relation, Clocks, Calendars, Binary logic, Logical Sequence, Assumption, Premise, Conclusion, Linear and matrix arrangement, Input-Output, Series, Syllogism, Cubes, Rows, Set Theory, Venn Diagrams. Seating arrangement, Ranks, different type of team formation, puzzles on words, letters, statements, arguments
Quantitative Ability (QA)	Arithmetic: Averages; Ratio & Proportion; Speed, Time and Distance; Time and Work; LCM and HCF; Percentages, Profit and Loss; Interest (Simple and Compound); Number System. Algebra: Linear & Quadratic Equations; Inequalities; Functions; Progressions; Algebraic Expressions to Polynomials; Complex numbers; Sequences and series; Permutations and combinations Geometry/Mensuration: Triangles, Lines and Angles (Supplementary, Complementary, Obtuse, Acute, and Right), Quadrilaterals, Circles; Theorems (Pythagoras, Midpoint, Apollonius, Basic Proportionality, Internal and External Angular Bisector), Co-ordinate Geometry, Quadrant System, Areas of Hexagonal Polygon, Triangle, and Rectangle. Square, Rhombus, Trapezoid, Volume, Total Surface Area, and Lateral Surface Area of Different Solids like Cubes, Cuboids, Cylinders, Pyramids, Cones, Spheres,

	Hemispheres, and Frustum. Trigonometry: Trigonometric ratios, identities, and heights and distances, Sine, Cosine. Modern Math: Sequence and Series, Binomial Theorem, Set Theory, Probability, Permutation & Combination

CAT 2024 Preparation

You can prepare with self-preparation through Books, Mocks or through coaching as per your convenience. Shared below are the details of best preparation books section wise, how to prepare with Coaching, how to prepare with self preparation, Preparation with Mocks, toppers' tips and more:

CAT Preparation Books for VARC, DILR, Quant
The Best Books for Preparation should keep pace with the changing exam pattern. Most of the preparation books in the market are based on the previous exam pattern but the best books shared here are the updated books which have incorporated changes with the anticipated question type in the exam. Every year different types of questions appear in the exam. During the last few years, the exam pattern has been modified completely. So, while choosing the best books for CAT preparation, it should be kept in mind that the books are conversant with the changed exam pattern and difficulty level. Few things to check in the books are:

- Should Provide conceptual clarity on the relevant topic
- Rich on the exercises, practice questions and Mocks given after each topic
- Caters your need to focus more on the weak areas with variety of practice questions
- Latest edition of CAT preparation Book offers the updated exam pattern and syllabus also

Section-Wise Best books for CAT Preparation

CAT Preparation Books for VARC

- How to Prepare for Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension for CAT'- by Arun Sharma & Meenakshi Upadhyay
- Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension for the CAT by Nishit K Sinha
- Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension by Ajay Singh
- Word Power Made Easy by Norman Lewis

CAT Preparation Books for DILR

- How to Prepare for Data Interpretation for CAT by Arun Sharma (Published by McGraw Hill)
- How to Prepare for Logical Reasoning for CAT by Arun Sharma (Published by McGraw Hill)
- Logical Reasoning and Data Interpretation for the CAT by Nishit K. Sinha
- CAT Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning by Gautam Puri, Publisher Career Launcher

CAT Preparation Books for QA

- How to prepare for Quantitative for the CAT by Arun Sharma, published by MGH Education
- Quantitative Aptitude for the CAT by Nishit K Sinha
- Quantitative Aptitude Quantum CAT by Sarvesh K Verma

Check & Read about the key features, price for [Best CAT Preparation Books](#)

CAT Preparation with Top CAT Coaching Institutes

Coaching institutes help you to prepare systematically without deviating from your preparation path. While offering smart and intensive preparation for the exam, the top coaching institutes help you to minimize the wastage of time with optimum utilization. There are 6 months, 3 months and 1 month preparation time modules offered by the good coaching institutes that help you crack the exam with high score. If you need to clear the concepts and build your basics before practicing sessions, coaching centers suggest to start the preparation with a 6 month time margin.

Mock Tests in CAT Preparation

Toppers are of the view that taking Mocks is of utmost importance as it is a very important preparation tool. If you are seriously preparing for the exam and wish to score high percentile, it is necessary to attempt more and more Mock Tests to get ready for the exam day. You can attempt the full length [CAT Mock](#) and sectional Mocks prepared by experts at MBAUniverse.com.

CAT Registration & Application Process

CAT Registration process is online. You can register & apply online only on the official website iimcat.ac.in. The registration fee is Rs. 2500 /- for General/EWS/OBC candidates and Rs.1250/ for SC/ST/PWD candidate.

CAT Registration: 3 Step Process

CAT Registration Steps	Description
Step-1: Login	Login to CAT website iimcat.ac.in and Create Profile
Step-2: Fill In Registration Form	Fill in the Registration Form and check for message of successful Registration to get User Id and Password
Step-3: Fill Application Form	Login to CAT Application form with CAT User Id & Password Fill in Personal Details, Academic details, Work Experience, Select IIMs & Programs, Choose 5 preferred exam cities, Make Payment online of CAT Registration fees and submit

Read more. **CAT Registration**

Top MBA Colleges Accepting CAT Score

More than Top 500 MBA colleges in India will accepting CAT 2024 score for MBA admission 2025. Among the top CAT accepting colleges are 21 IIMs and other top CAT MBA colleges in Non-IIM category, like FMS Delhi, MDI Gurgaon, IIFT Delhi, SPJIMR Mumbai, SJMSoM IIT Mumbai, DoMS IIT Delhi among others.

Read More. **Top MBA Colleges Accepting CAT Score**

Also Read:

- CAT 2024 Exam All About
- CAT Exam Eligibility 2024
- CAT Syllabus 2024
- CAT 2024 Exam Pattern
- CAT 2024 Preparation
- CAT 2024 Registration
- CAT Mock Test 2024
- CAT Score Vs Percentile 2024