CAT EXAM PATTERN 2025

CAT Exam Pattern tests a candidate's verbal ability, logical reasoning and data interpretation skills, and mathematical problem-solving skills. Check CAT Exam Pattern by section below. CAT 2025 exam will be held on November 30, 2025.

CAT Exam Pattern Changes

Total Number of Questions:
In 2019 and 2020, CAT had 100 questions (VARC: 34, DILR: 32, QA: 34).
From 2021 onwards, the number of questions was reduced to 66 (VARC: 24, DILR: 20, QA: 22), making the test shorter but more intense.
This pattern has continued through CAT 2023 and is expected to remain in CAT 2025.

Time Duration:
Until 2019, CAT had a 3-hour duration (60 minutes per section).
From 2020 onwards, the exam duration was reduced to 2 hours, with 40 minutes per section, which increased the pressure on time management.

Sectional Pattern & Difficulty Level:
The VARC section has seen a greater emphasis on Reading Comprehension, with fewer Verbal Ability questions like Odd One Out and Para Summary.
DILR has become more reasoning-focused, with tougher logic-based sets and fewer straightforward data interpretation questions.
QA has shifted towards Arithmetic, making it more accessible for non-engineering background candidates.

Question Types – MCQ vs. TITA:
The TITA (Type in the Answer) questions have fluctuated but generally make up 25-30% of the total paper.
The number of MCQs has reduced, making the paper more unpredictable, as TITA questions do not have negative marking.

Slot-wise Variations & Normalization:
Since CAT is conducted in multiple slots, the level of difficulty has varied across different slots, requiring score normalization to ensure fairness in percentile calculations.

CAT Exam Pattern 2025

CAT 2025 Exam pattern (expected) is given below.

Section No.	Section Name	Duration	MCQs	TITA	Total

I	Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension	40 min	20	4	**24**
II	Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning	40 min	12	10	**22**
III	Quantitative Ability	40 min	14	8	**22**
Total		**120 min**	**46**	**22**	**68**

CAT Marking Scheme 2025

The CAT 2025 marking scheme is common for all sections. The CAT 2025 marking scheme awards +3 marks for each correct answer, -1 mark for each incorrect Multiple-Choice Question (MCQ), and no negative marking for Non-MCQ (TITA) questions.

CAT Exam Pattern 2024

Previous year CAT 2024 Exam Pattern was same across all the three slots. Check table below. However, there were minor changes in section wise compositions. Check complete CAT 2024 exam analysis for details.

CAT 2024 Exam Pattern for Slot 1, 2, 3

CAT Exam Components	No of Questions (Divided in MCQs & Non MCQs)	Sectional Time Limit (In Minutes)	Scoring Pattern (Negative Marking is only for MCQs)
Section-1: Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension (VARC)	24	40	+3 for Correct; 1 for Incorrect; 0 for Not Attempted
Section-2: Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning (DILR)	22	40	+3 for Correct; 1 for Incorrect; 0 for Not Attempted

Section-3: Quantitative Ability (QA)	22	40	+3 for Correct; 1 for Incorrect; 0 for Not Attempted
Total	68	120	198

CAT Exam Pattern for Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension Section

Last year, CAT 2024 VARC section saw four RC passages, Paragraph Completion, Summary, and Odd Sentence type of questions. Check slot wise details below.

Area	Topic	No. of Questions	Type
Reading Comprehension	Digital rights of content (Streaming and DVD/Blu-ray)	4	MCQ
Reading Comprehension	Craftsmanship and Creativity	4	MCQ
Reading Comprehension	Revival of bandicoots in Australia	4	MCQ
Reading Comprehension	Critique of behavioral economics	4	MCQ
Verbal Ability	Paragraph Completion	3	MCQ
Verbal Ability	Summary	3	MCQ
Verbal Ability	Odd Sentence Questions	2	TITA
Total	RC & VA	24	MCQ & TITA

CAT Exam Pattern for Data Interpretation and Logical Reasoning Section

Data Interpretation for CAT section tests a candidate's ability to analyze, interpret, and draw conclusions from a given numerical data. The questions in CAT Data Interpretation section are typically based on tables, bar graphs, line charts, pie charts, caselets, and mixed data sets.

Logical Reasoning for CAT section evaluates a candidate's ability to analyze patterns, identify relationships, and solve complex problems using logical reasoning. Common Logical Reasoning questions in CAT exam include arrangements, puzzles, blood relations, syllogisms, Venn diagrams, and logical sequences.

Read details of CAT 2024 Exam Pattern for Data Interpretation and Logical Reasoning Section.

CAT 2024 Slot 1 Exam Pattern for Data Interpretation and Logical Reasoning Section

Area	Set Description	No. of Questions	Question Type
Data Interpretation	Stock price-based candlestick graph for 7 stocks	4	3 MCQ, 1 TITA
Data Interpretation	Bar graph showing 3 people visiting different countries	4	2 MCQ, 2 TITA
Logical Reasoning	Tournament of 6 teams split into two groups, teams play within & across groups	5	5 TITA
Logical Reasoning	Web surfers assigning thirty stars	4	3 MCQ, 1 TITA
Data Interpretation	Election between two candidates, comparatively lengthy set	5	4 MCQ, 1 TITA

CAT Exam Pattern for Quantitative Aptitude Section

Quantitative Aptitude (QA) for CAT section assesses a candidate's mathematical skills, problem-solving ability, and numerical aptitude. The questions in Quantitative Aptitude test the conceptual clarity, logical application, and time management skills. CAT Quantitative Aptitude section covers topics from arithmetic, algebra, geometry, number systems, and modern mathematics. Read CAT Quantitative Ability exam pattern.