

CMAT Exam Pattern 2026: Released; Check Latest CMAT Paper Pattern, Duration, Marking Scheme, Download PDF

CMAT 2026 exam has been announced and exam pattern has been released by National Testing Agency (NTA). Like last year, CMAT Pattern 2026 consists of 100 objective type (MCQs) questions which are equally divided into five sections: Language Comprehension, Quantitative Techniques & Data Interpretation, Logical Reasoning, General Awareness and Innovation and Entrepreneurship. CMAT 2026 exam duration is 180 minutes. CMAT 2026 Exam Date is January 25, 2026. Read complete details of CMAT Exam Pattern 2026 and previous year CMAT papers below. CMAT Exam Pattern PDF download link is also given below. Latest Changes in CMAT Exam Pattern are also given.



CMAT Exam Pattern 2026

Check Latest CMAT Paper Pattern, Duration, Marking Scheme

CMAT Exam 2026: Key Highlights

CMAT is a government organized computer based national level MBA entrance examination for entry into 1000 AICTE approved management programmes (MBA/PGDM) all over India. More than 75,000 candidates apply for CMAT every year. Highlights of CMAT exam is given below.

CMAT Exam Particulars	Details
-----------------------	---------

Who conducts CMAT Exam?	National Testing Agency (NTA)
Top MBA Colleges Accepting CMAT	K J Somaia, Welingkar, PUMBA, BIMTECH
CMAT 2025 Notification Release	November 14, 2024
CMAT 2025 Exam Date	January 25, 2025
CMAT Exam Slots	Two Slot Exam of 3 Hrs Duration for each slot
Mode of CMAT exam	Online Computer Based Test at Exam Centres
CMAT Official Website	https://exams.nta.ac.in/CMAT/
CMAT Exam Application Fees	Rs. 2500
Number of Candidates who registered for CMAT 2023 exam	76,745
Total Questions in the Exam	100
Number of Sections	5 Sections with 20 Questions in Each Section
Section Names in CMAT	Quantitative Technique; Logical Reasoning; Language Comprehension; General Awareness; Innovation and Entrepreneurship
Number of Answer Options	4
Scoring Pattern in CMAT exam	+4 Marks for Each Correct Answer -1 Mark for Each Wrong Answer 0 Mark for Un-attempted Question
CMAT Sectional Time Limit	No Sectional Time Limit
Facility to Choose Order of Sections	Yes, Attempt any question from any section within overall time limit

CMAT Exam Pattern 2026: Sections, Number of Questions, Maximum Marks

CMAT Pattern is released by NTA in CMAT information bulletin. CMAT 2026 exam duration is 180 minutes. There is no sectional time limit. Based on previous year exam paper patterns, CMAT Exam Pattern 2026 is given below.

Section	Exam Sections	Number of Questions	Maximum Marks Section-wise
1	Language Comprehension	20	80
2	Quantitative Techniques and Data Interpretation	20	80
3	Logical Reasoning	20	80
4	General Awareness	20	80
5	Innovation and Entrepreneurship	20	80
	Total	100	400

CMAT Marking Scheme 2026

CMAT marking scheme is also released by NTA in CMAT information bulletin. Based on previous year exam paper patterns, CMAT Marking Scheme 2026 is given below.

- i) Each question carries 04 (four) marks.
- ii) For each correct response, candidate will get 04 (four) marks.
- iii) For each incorrect response, 01 (one) mark will be deducted from the total score.

- v) To answer a question, the candidate needs to choose one option as correct option.
- vi) However, after the process of Challenges of the Answer Key, in case there are multiple correct options or change in key, only those candidates who have attempted it correctly as per the revised Answer key will be awarded marks.
- vii) In case a Question is dropped due to some technical error, full marks shall be given to all the candidates irrespective of the fact who have attempted it or not.

Read Section-Wise Break-Up of CMAT Exam Pattern 2026 in the following sections.

CMAT Exam Pattern 2026 for Language Comprehension Section

Out of total 100 questions in CMAT, 20 questions are based on Language Comprehension section. The Language Comprehension Section in CMAT is divided into 2 parts. The 1st part covers topics on Verbal Ability and the 2nd Part covers Reading Comprehension passages. Check type of questions that appeared in this section in CMAT 2025 exam. Based on this, you can understand CMAT language comprehension section exam pattern 2026.

CMAT 2025 Slot 1: Type of Questions in Language Comprehension Section

CMAT 2025 Slot 1 Language Comprehension section consisted of 5 Reading Comprehension questions and 15 Grammer and English language usage related questions. Details are given in table below.

Sub Section	Type of Question	No of Questions
Reading Comprehension	RC Passage	5
Verbal Ability	Identify correct/Incorrect usage (Active/Passive, Speech, Verb Usage)	4
	Idioms and meanings	2
	Assertion-Reason (Grammar Based - Simple Sentences, Adjectives)	2
	Choose correct sentence (Adjectives, Verb usage)	2
	Match the following (Types of Pronouns)	1
	Jumbled Sentences	1
	Parajumbles	1
	Synonyms (Match the following)	1

CMAT 2025 Slot 2: Type of Questions in Language Comprehension Section

CMAT 2025 Slot 2 Language Comprehension section also consisted of 5 Reading Comprehension questions and 15 Grammer and English language usage related questions. Details are given in table below.

Reading Comprehension	RC Passage	5
Verbal Ability	Identify correct/Incorrect usage (Active/Passive, Speech, Verb Usage)	4
	Idioms and meanings	2
	Assertion-Reason (Grammar Based - Simple Sentences, Adjectives)	2
	Choose correct sentence (Adjectives, Verb usage)	2
	Match the following (Types of Pronouns)	1
	Jumbled Sentences	1
	Parajumbles	1
	Synonyms (Match the following)	1

CMAT Exam Pattern 2026 for Quantitative Techniques & Data Interpretation Section

Out of total 100 questions in CMAT, 20 questions are based on Quantitative Techniques & Data Interpretation section. It tests you on your ability on Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Modern Math, and your skills to analyse the data from Graphs, Charts, Tables etc. Check type of questions that appeared in this section in CMAT 2025 exam. Based on this, you can understand CMAT Quantitative Techniques & Data Interpretation exam pattern 2026.

CMAT 2025 Slot 1: Type of Questions in Quantitative Techniques & Data Interpretation

CMAT 2025 Slot 1 Quantitative Techniques & Data Interpretation section consisted of 20 questions, of which only 3 questions were on Data Interpretation and the remaining 17 were on Quantitative Technique. A set of 3 questions on Data Interpretation consisted of questions based on pie charts. The questions on Quantitative Techniques were dominated by questions on Arithmetic. Out of 17 questions on Quantitative Techniques, 10 questions were on Arithmetic. There were 2 questions each of Modern Math, Numbers and Algebra, 1 question on Geometry. Check detailed break up in table below.

Area	No of Questions	Details
-	Total	-
Arithmetic	10	Time-speed-distance(3), Ratio-Proportion(2) Profit & Loss (2), SICI(1), Alligation and Mixtures(2)
Geometry	1	Triangles(1)
Modern Math	2	Probability(2)
Numbers	2	Surds(1) and indices(1)
Algebra	2	Quad equations(1), Linear equations(1)
Data Interpretation	3	2 Pie charts (Set of 3 questions)

CMAT 2025 Slot 2: Type of Questions in Quantitative Techniques & Data Interpretation

CMAT 2025 Slot 2 Quantitative Techniques & Data Interpretation section was similar to slot

1. Check details in table below.

Area	No.of Questions.	Details
-	Total	-

TIME & WORK(1), PROFIT & LOSS(2), SI/CI(1)		
Geometry	3	Triangles(1), Mensuration(1), Circles(1)
Modern Math	3	Probability(2), Permutation - Combination(1)
Numbers	3	Surds(1) and Indices(2)
Algebra	0	-
Data Interpretation	3	Bar Graph (Set of 3 questions)

CMAT Exam Pattern 2026 for Logical Reasoning Section

Out of total 100 questions in CMAT exam, 20 questions are based on Logical Reasoning section. Check type of questions that appeared in this section in CMAT 2025 exam. Based on this, you can understand CMAT Logical Reasoning exam pattern 2026.

CMAT 2025 Slot 1: Type of Questions in Logical Reasoning Section

In CMAT 2025 Slot 1 exam, out of the 20 questions in this section, 14 were on Non-Verbal Reasoning and 6 questions were on Verbal Reasoning. All the questions were standalone questions and there were no set based questions. Check detailed break up in table below.

Sub-section/ Topic	Type of Questions	No of Questions
Non-Verbal Reasoning	Directions (1), Cubes (2), Counting the number of squares (1), Linear Arrangement (1), Family tree (1), Clocks (1), Numerical Puzzle (1), Misc (1), Logical Venn diagram (1), Set theory (1), Number Series (1), Analogy based sequence (1), Alpha numeric (1)	14
Verbal Reasoning	Assertion Reason; Strong/Weak Argument; Assumption; Conclusion, Word based Analogy and Odd one out	6
Total Questions	-	20

CMAT 2025 Slot 2: Type of Questions in Logical Reasoning Section

In CMAT 2025 Slot 2 exam, out of the 20 questions in this section, 12 were on Non-Verbal Reasoning and 8 questions were on Verbal Reasoning. All the questions were standalone questions and there were no set based questions. Check detailed break up in table below.

Sub-section/ Topic	Type of Questions	No of Questions
Non-Verbal Reasoning	Directions (1), Series (1), Counting the number of triangles (1), Clocks (1), Set theory (1), Family Tree (1), Coding (1), Arrangements (Circular) (1), Numerical Puzzle (2), Cube (1), Dice (1)	12
Verbal Reasoning	Reverse Syllogisms, Logical Sequence, Strong/Weak Arguments, Assumptions, Conclusions, Assertion-Reason, Analogies	8
Total Questions	-	20

CMAT 2025 Slot 1: Type of Questions in Logical Reasoning Section

In CMAT 2025 slot 1 exam, all 20 questions were based on Static GK. The questions were on different sections like Science, Sports, Indian constitution, History, Culture of India, among others. Most of the questions were based on Indian GK, only a few questions were on international events.

CMAT 2025 Slot 2: Type of Questions in Logical Reasoning Section

In CMAT 2025 slot 2 exam, out of the 20 General Awareness questions, 15 were based on Static GK. 5 questions were on Current Affairs. The questions were on Sports, Awards, India and its culture, constitution, history, books and authors, science, politics, geography, among others.

CMAT Exam Pattern 2026 for Innovation & Entrepreneurship Section

The Innovation & Entrepreneurship Section in CMAT pattern tests the knowledge on Innovative business practices, Government plans and policies, global entrepreneurs and personalities among others. Check type of questions that appeared in this section in CMAT 2025 exam. Based on this, you can understand CMAT Logical Reasoning exam pattern 2026.

CMAT 2025 Slot 1: Type of Questions in Innovation & Entrepreneurship Section

Out of the 20 questions, 19 were based on Business and Entrepreneurship concepts (Bootstrapping, Startup valuation, Fabian entrepreneur, Angel investment, Lean startup, Trademark, Feasibility analysis). 1 question was on Business GK. Overall, this section was of medium difficulty level.

CMAT 2025 Slot 2: Type of Questions in Innovation & Entrepreneurship Section

Out of the 20 questions, all 20 were based on Business, Management, Economics, and Entrepreneurship concepts. Overall, this section was of medium difficulty level.

CMAT Latest Changes in CMAT Exam Pattern

No change has been announced in CMAT 2026 exam pattern. So, the CMAT exam pattern will be same as last year.

Earlier, CMAT exam pattern was revised in 2022. The Innovation and Entrepreneurship section was made a mandatory section of the exam. Earlier, Innovation and Entrepreneurship was introduced in CMAT in 2021 as an optional section.

CMAT 2026 pattern PDF download link is given below. This document includes CMAT Exam Pattern by section, as published in this article. Download CMAT Exam Pattern 2026 PDF from link below.

[**Download CMAT EXAM PATTERN 2026 PDF**](#)

CMAT Preparation 2026

Based on exam pattern (discussed above), CMAT 2026 syllabus and previous year's question papers, CMAT preparation strategy is as follows:

- **Language Comprehension:** Focus on Reading Comprehension and Grammar—practice RCs, sentence correction, idioms, and parajumbles daily.
- **Quantitative Techniques & DI:** Strengthen Arithmetic fundamentals and practice data interpretation sets.
- **Logical Reasoning:** Practice both verbal and non-verbal reasoning.
- **General Knowledge:** Revise static GK with emphasis on Indian polity, history, and constitution.
- **Innovation & Entrepreneurship:** Study key startup concepts, government schemes, and entrepreneur types.

In addition to preparing fundamentals, you must take mock tests regularly. Read following section on how to take free Mock CMAT tests online.

CMAT Mock Test 2026

CMAT Mock Tests and Previous Year question papers are the best preparation tools. Toppers recommend to take as many CMAT mocks and analyse each of them thoroughly. You can take free mock tests on [MBAUniverse.com](https://www.mbauniverse.com) from links below.

- [CMAT Mock Test 2026](#)
- [CMAT Previous Year Papers](#)
- [CMAT Sample Papers 2026](#)

CMAT Exam Pattern Vs CAT Exam Pattern: A Comparison

CMAT Vs CAT exam pattern has many similarities as well as differences. A brief CMAT & CAT comparison is shared below:

CMAT Vs CAT Exam Pattern

Component	CMAT 2025	IIM- CAT 2024
-----------	-----------	---------------

Overall time limit to attempt the exam	3 hours	2 hours
Type of questions	All MCQs	48 questions are MCQs, rest 18 Non-MCQs
Answer options for MCQs	4	4
Marks awarded for each correct answer	4	3
Negative marking	-1	-1 only for MCQs; No negative marking for Non-MCQs
Exam difficulty level	Moderate	Comparatively high
Number of sections	5	3
Name of section-1 with number of questions	Language Comprehension-20	Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension- 24
Name of Section-2 with number of questions	Quantitative Techniques and Data Interpretation-20	Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning -20
Name of Section-3 with number of questions	Logical Reasoning-20	Quantitative Ability-22
Name of Section-4 with number of questions	General Awareness-20	NA
Name of Section-4 with number of questions	Innovation and Entrepreneurship-20	NA
Facility to choose order of sections	Any section from the question paper	No, has to follow pre specified sectional order
Individual Sectional time limit	No	Each section with 40 minutes time limit

In summary, CMAT 2026 Exam Pattern consists of 100 objective type (MCQs) questions divided into five sections. CMAT exam duration is 180 minutes. CMAT 2026 exam will be held in January, 2026. Read complete details of CMAT 2026 Pattern in above article. Also read: CMAT 2026 Exam Overview & Highlights and CMAT 2026 exam preparation tips.

FAQS

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the pattern for the CMAT 2026?

A: CMAT 2026 Exam Pattern consists of 100 objective type (MCQs) questions which are equally divided into five sections: Language Comprehension, Quantitative Techniques & Data Interpretation, Logical Reasoning, General Awareness and Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Q: What are the total marks for CMAT?

A: In CMAT marking scheme each question carries 04 marks. Since there are total 100 questions in total marks in CMAT exam are 400.

Q: Is CMAT tough or easy?

A: CMAT difficulty level is easy to moderate. CMAT questions are much easier than CAT or XAT. However, CMAT exam has GK, and Innovation & Entrepreneurship section, which require separate preparation from other MBA entrance exam.

